



London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees

Welcome to a new season. When we get to learn to count again – oh the joys of numbers in the line out!

Welcome

It was great to see so many new recruits to the West region at the first meeting of the season. A huge welcome goes to:

Neil Brooks
Michael Hunter
Simon Fulgani
Steve Carter
Tim Horgan
Duncan Wheelhouse
Leslie Hill
David Stephens

This group includes brand new as well as highly experienced referees. David Stephens joined London Society last year and now joins the west region as one of this year's South East Group, refereeing national league 3 south.

Michael Hunter is a 25 year old kiwi from Invercargill, who you never know may go on to reach the heights of former Invercargill and international referee, Paddy O'Brien. In his second game, Michael refereed Paddy's son. Michael came over to England in May and is looking forward to his first season in London.

Another new addition to West region is Simon Fulgani. Simon used to referee regularly but last officiated in 1993, when he was refereeing in the armed forces. Although the game has changed a lot over the last 16 years, Simon is looking forward to getting involved again.

Smarty pants

Those of you who were at the pre-season 7s tournament at Wasps last month will know that 18 year old Mark Dickens was nervously waiting for his A level results.

Well he had nothing to fear as he got 4 As. Well done!

30th birthday present

JP Doyle celebrated his 30th birthday on the same day as the Middlesex 7s, refereeing the final between London Irish and International Samurais at Twickenham before going on to enjoy his birthday.

Saturday nights

Don't forget that if you ever fancy a beer or two after your game on a Saturday evening, come down to Richmond Athletic Ground. Now that Andrew Boulanger is back from travelling, Saturday nights are not to be missed!

Nice arse

A few West region referees went over to Switzerland at the end of last season for the Neuchatel 7s. See if you can spot whose backside is on show in the photo below.



For a slightly more tasteful group shot



Well except the view of Ali's chest anyway!

Stockholm 10s

Over the summer our referees were involved in a number of tournaments abroad. One such tournament was the Stockholm 10s.

Wayne Barnes went along for the 2nd year running and as a 30 year old was pretty alarmed to be asked for id going into a nightclub. Unfortunately, he didn't have any id on him, and for some reason, the bouncer felt that looking at his wikipedia page (which included his date of birth) wasn't an acceptable form of identification. I've got to give it to Max though, it was worth a try!



Max shows off his muscles in Stockholm to little Ed



Who says that what goes on tour should stay on tour?
Is this one for the wikipedia page Wayne??

Dr John Coates

As the west region's appointments manager, Dr John Coates is someone everybody needs to know. I asked him a few questions.



How long you've been refereeing?

I started refereeing at university and London Welsh 16 years ago. I joined Harrow society in 1994 then London Society a year later.

What has been your most enjoyable moment as a referee?

God there are so few! The most enjoyable game was Richmond U21 v Leicester U21 back when I was an athlete with Dusty Hare (there's one for the teenagers) paying the compliments!

How long have you been appointments secretary for the west list?

4 years

What's the funniest or weirdest excuse someone has used to pull out of a game?

Where do I start...pulled muscle in the back shaving (no names).

What you enjoy most about being appointments secretary?

It's very time consuming but I do like developing referees.

The biggest challenge of being appointments secretary is pleasing everyone and giving them the games they deserve.

Any tips for new referees?

Stick at it...it gets better!

How does appointing using Easyref compare to methods used in the past?

Without doubt, it's far easier than appointing by hand. Cyril (former

appointments secretary and London society stalwart) used to handwrite cards to clubs and refs with monthly appointments....that would take forever with 100 refs and 60 odd clubs. I really don't know how Cyril managed it.

Easyref has all league/merit fixtures pre-loaded and we add the friendlies using an LSRFUR Spreadsheet that takes seconds to load.

In comparison, appointing is now very easy. The main issue we have is that easyref emails are often treated as spam and are not delivered.

This year refs will be able to enter their own availability saving me sending out a monthly reminder and collating responses.

If you haven't filled in your availability, do it now in the members section of www.londonrugby.com

Future meetings

If you haven't yet put this season's west region and central meetings in your diary, now is the time to do it.

Central meetings take place at the Institute of Child Health, Guilford Street and start at 7pm.

West region meetings take place at London Welsh, Kew Road, Richmond

Here are the dates as a reminder:

17th September – Central meeting

**22nd September – West region
CRDA line out**

**14th October – West region
The season so far**

5th November – West region

19th November – Central meeting

**26th November – Annual dinner
RAC club**

**8th December – West region
Quiz**

**6th January 2010 – West region
CRDA discipline and reporting**

4th February – Central

**18th February – West region
Managing captains and coaches**

**16th March – West region
Sevens**

15th April - Central

Newsletters

I wasn't very regular with the newsletters last year and I will try to do them more regularly. But, for me to be able to do that, you need to let me know what you've been up to.

If you have anything you'd like to share with your fellow referees, either email me on andreattofa@hotmail.com or give me a bell on 07753 614 288

No gossip = no newsletters!!

And finally ...

Many referees will be taking to the field for the first time this season this weekend.

Have a good one and see you at the central meeting on 17th September.